Rights Index (IPRI) 2007 Report brought out by the Washington, DC based Property Right Alliance, India and China are tied at Rank 39 in the International Property Rights Index (IPRI) with respect to Gender Equality (GE). The factors taken into account for constructing IPRI (GE) ranking are women's access to land, women's access to property other than land, women's assess to bank loans, property inheritance rules and women's social rights.

(b) The Report mentions that top 25 of the 70 country surveyed enjoy, on average, a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita income of more than eight times their counterparts at the bottom of 25 percent of the index which supports the generally assumed positive correlation between property rights protection and economic well being.

(c) A total of 11 factors divided into three main categories, namely Legal and Physical Environment (LP), Physical Property Rights (PPR) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) have been taken into account in the Report for arriving at the ranking. These include judicial independence, political stability, corruption, legal protection of property rights and protection of intellectual property rights.

Rise in cement price

4459. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement prices in India have shot through the roof because of a major demand-supply gap;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to increase supply by incentivising more production of cement in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Cement is a decontrolled commodity and its price is governed by economic factors, *viz.*, divergence between demand and supply, cost of raw materials and other inputs, taxes and distribution costs. Cement price has increased over the last one year on account of all these factors.

(b) to (d) Under the liberalized economic framework manufacturing of cement is exempt from industrial licensing. The Government is encouraging capacity-addition in the private sector by providing an investor friendly environment.

Establishment of SEZs

4460. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are to be set up;

(b) the areas of land being provided by the State Governments for SEZs;

(c) whether the SEZs set up would displace thousand of people and destroy farmers' livelihood;

(d) the fate of the displaced farmers; and

(e) the amount earmarked for creation of SEZs in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) After the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006, 234 formal approvals have been granted for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country, of which 103 have been notified. The SEZs formally approved are in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal and Union Territories of Chandigarh and Puducherry.

(b) to (d) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date, the extent of land involved is only about 33,808 hectares and in these cases, land was aready in possession of the State Government Industrial Development Corporations or the private developers. Land being a State subject, decision to identify or allot land for various purposes including SEZ is taken by the respective State Governments. Only the proposals duly recommended by the State Governments only are granted approval by the Central Government. Various issues concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory